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TEEN T — CONTENT RATED BY ESRB
- Alcohol and Tobacco Reference
- Blood
- Mild Language
- Suggestive Themes
- Violence

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(s10)

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
NEAR SMALLVILLE, LATE 20TH CENTURY:
THANKS FOR THE PICKUP, BRAINY!
SUPERBOY - CLARK KENT
HOMEWORLD - 20TH CENTURY EARTH
ABILITIES: SUPER-STRENGTH, SPEED, VISION, FLIGHT, INVULNERABILITY
BRAINIAC 5
AKA.: QUERL DOX
HOMEWORLD: COLU
ABILITIES: 12TH-LEVEL SUPER-INTELLIGENCE
COSMIC BOY FELT IT WAS NECESSARY...
HMMM... PERHAPS I ACTUALLY CAN MAKE IT A PRODUCTIVE TRIP!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BRAINY?
PATIENCE-- BACK IN 2.4 MINUTES, SUPERBOY.
THERE-- PERFECT!
PARCOBLATTA PENNSYLVANICA-- 20TH CENTURY VARIETY.
YUCK!

YOU REALLY HAVE A THING ABOUT ROACHES, DON'T YOU?
PURELY SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY.
UH-HUH.
REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST DAY I MET BRANDE--- YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL ROACHES THEN TOO.
AND YET MILLIONS OF ROACHES STILL LIVE, AND R.J. BRANDE IS DEAD.
MORE SUPERFLUOUS EVIDENCE THAT THE UNIVERSE IS RANDOMLY UNFAIR.
BUT PERHAPS WITH THESE ANCIENT SAMPLES I CAN DECODE THEIR EVOLUTIONARY DNA AND DESTROY THE SPECIES...
...AFTER WE LISTEN TO OUR PATRON SPEAK FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE, NOW THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED THE MISSIONS HE SENT US ON IN YOUR ERA.*
* IN THE SUPER-BOOKS' "LAST STAND OF NEW KRYPTON"!--B.C.
BARBARIC CUSTOM, SPEAKING AFTER YOU ARE DEAD.
ALMOST AS UNPLEASANT AS COMING FACE TO FACE WITH AN INFAMOUS ANCESTOR WHO SHOULD BE DEAD.

BRANDE SPEAKS

Paul Levitz Writer Kevin Sharpe Penciller

Mario Alquiza Inker Travis Lanham Letterer
Blond Colorist Sean Ryan Associate Editor
Brian Cunningham Editor
Cover by Scott Clark and David Beaty

THE 31ST CENTURY.
LEGION HEADQUARTERS.
AS MONSIEUR BRANDE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR MANY YEARS, I MAY TELL YOU THAT HIS DEEP FEELINGS FOR THE LEGION MADE YOU ALL AS CHILDREN TO HIM--
--NOT MERELY MR. DAGGLE, WHO WAS A TRUE PRODUCT OF BRANDE'S DURLAN GENES.
LIGHTNING LAD
AKA: GARTH RANZZ
HOMEWORLD: WINATH
ABILITIES: ELECTRICAL GENERATION AND DIRECTION
SATURN GIRL
AKA: IMRA ARDEEN-RANZZ
HOMEWORLD: TITAN
ABILITIES: TELEPATHY
CHAMELEON BOY
AKA: REEP DAGGLE
HOMEWORLD: DURLA
ABILITIES: SHAPE-SHIFTING
COSMIC BOY
AKA: ROKK KRINN
HOMEWORLD: BRAAL
ABILITIES: MAGNETISM MANIPULATION

WHILE YOUR BENEFACTOR DID NOT ANTICIPATE HIS ASSASSINATION, R.J.'S JOURNEY MADE HIM VERY CONSCIOUS OF LIFE'S FRAGILE NATURE, AND HE PREPARED THIS HOLO SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU SIX.
HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OTHER TASKS HE SET FOR YOU IN HIS WILL, UNTANGLING TIME ITSELF.
AND SURELY THE FACT THAT SUPERMAN IS HERE SHOWS YOUR SUCCESS.
THIS IS SUPERBOY, ACTUALLY. BUT WHY NOT JUST TRANSMIT THE HOLO TO MY DATA STORAGE SO I CAN VIEW IT ON A PARTICULARLY BORING AND MAUDLIN DAY?

THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TASKS WAITING IN MY LAB.
MONSIEUR BRAINIAC--

BRAINY, WE NEED YOU.
BRANDE MAY HAVE ENCODED THE HOLO WITH MORE MISSIONS. PLEASE--
AS A FAVOR FOR ME...?
OH, ALL RIGHT.
BUT CAN WE MAKE THIS FAST?
STOP.
MONSIEUR...
BREEP
CRYSTAL-PROJECTED HOLOGRAPHY, SUPERBOY... A 200 MEGAHERTZ REFRESH SYSTEM. I'LL GET AROUND TO SYNCHRONIZING IT WITH MAXIMUM HUMAN DATA INPUT SPEEDS ONE OF THESE DAYS...
WOW!
...WHEN I'M NOT BEING ASKED TO WASTE MY TIME.

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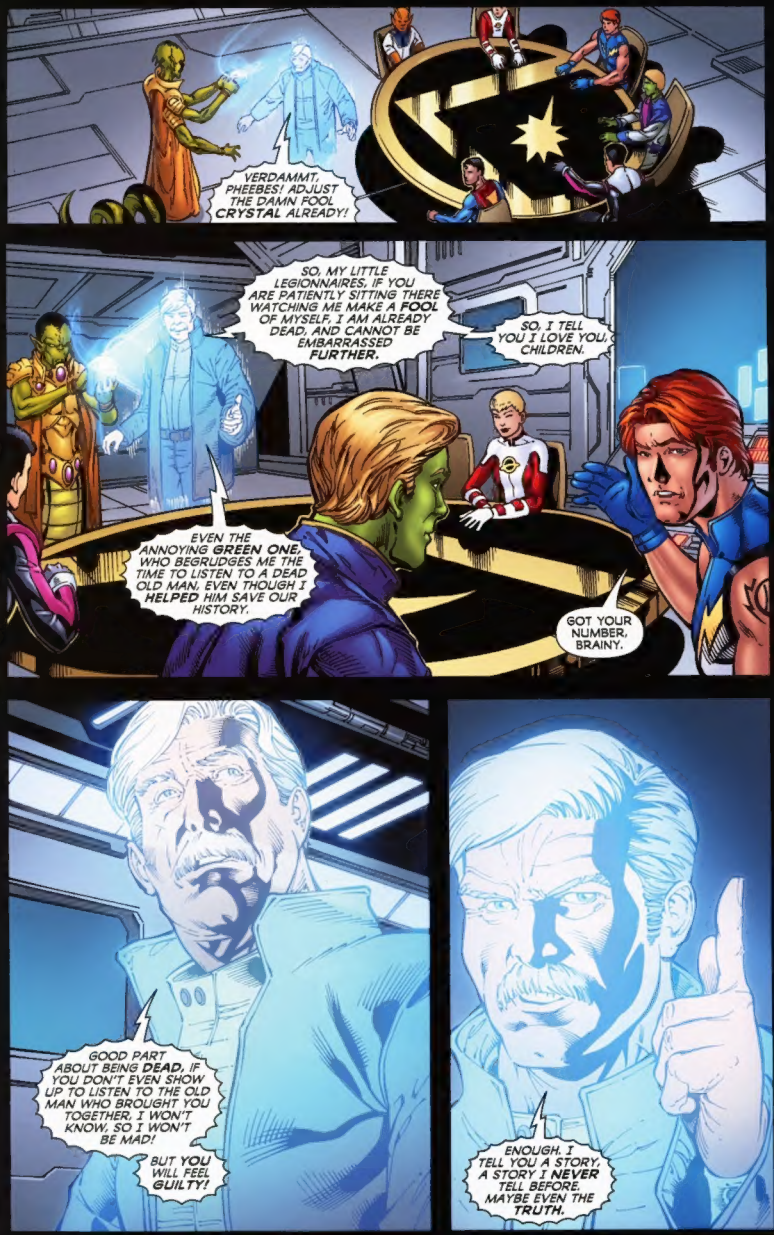
VERDAMMT, PHEEBES! ADJUST THE DAMN FOOL CRYSTAL ALREADY!
SO, MY LITTLE LEGIONNAIRES, IF YOU ARE PATIENTLY SITTING THERE WATCHING ME MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF, I AM ALREADY DEAD, AND CANNOT BE EMBARRASSED FURTHER.
SO, I TELL YOU I LOVE YOU, CHILDREN.
EVEN THE ANNOYING GREEN ONE, WHO BEGRUDGES ME THE TIME TO LISTEN TO A DEAD OLD MAN, EVEN THOUGH I HELPED HIM SAVE OUR HISTORY.
GOT YOUR NUMBER, BRAINY.
GOOD PART ABOUT BEING DEAD, IF YOU DON'T EVEN SHOW UP TO LISTEN TO THE OLD MAN WHO BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER. I WON'T KNOW. SO I WON'T BE MAD!
BUT YOU WILL FEEL GUILTY!
ENOUGH. I TELL YOU A STORY, A STORY I NEVER TELL BEFORE. MAYBE EVEN THE TRUTH.

"OTHER THAN MY SON, THE REST OF YOU NEVER CAME TO DURLA...NOT A *TOURIST SPOT.* AH, MAYBE BACK IN YOUR ANCIENT, FORGOTTEN TIME, SUPERBOY--
"--BACK WHEN MY LITTLE LEGIONNAIRES RESETTLED OUR CITY OUT OF THE BOTTLE--AND BEFORE WE MAKE A MESS OF IT IN *SIX MINUTE WAR.* AFTER THAT, WAS GOOD ONLY FOR SCIENTISTS TO STUDY A PARADE OF HORRIBLES FROM RADIATION--
"--AND THE LUCKY ONES DIED OR NEVER *BORN.*
"ME, I WAS BORN CYCLES AFTER WAR, ALMOST EVERYTHING GOOD ABOUT PLANET LONG GONE.
"BUT EVEN AS A LARVA I HAVE A BIG MOUTH, TALK BIG IDEAS.
"THE GOOD LORD WHO MADE US ALL LET THE RADIATION THAT DESTROYED OUR WORLD GIVE DURLANS THE GIFT OF SHAPE-SHIFTING. POWER ENOUGH TO LET US SCAVENGE AND SURVIVE.
"INSTEAD, BRAINS ENOUGH *NOT* TO BLOW THE PLANET TO RUBBISH WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE.
"STILL, *ME* HE GIVES A BRAIN, AND I'M HUNGRY TO *USE IT.*"

"IN A PILE OF ASHES, I FIND *TREASURE.*
"SOME DAY, WORLDS AWAY, I WILL LEARN THEY WERE CALLED *BOOKS*...AND WERE OLD EVEN WHEN DURLA WAS SETTLED, BACK BEFORE THE WAR MADE US FORGET SO MUCH.
"I LEARN ONCE WERE MEN WHO COULD FLY BETWEEN PLANETS, AND THEY SAVE DURLA.
"THE *FLYING* MAN *INSPIRES* ME. IF ALL DURLA IS IN RUIN, A PRISON... AT LEAST THERE IS A UNIVERSE *BEYOND!*
"IF THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS, AND ONE WHO COULD FLY BETWEEN THEM...
"IF YOU'RE HEARING THIS, BOY, DOUBLE SORRIES. ABANDONING YOU TO MY EGG-SISTER... AND MAKING UP THAT VERDAMMT LIE ABOUT LEAVING DURLA BECAUSE OF THE FEVER PLAGUE, TO SAVE YOU AND OTHERS.
"...SO WILL *I!*
"TRUTH IS, ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS ME...
"...AND GETTING *OFF* THAT HELLHOLE."

KANEANDLYNCH.COM

IO-Interactive

eidos

SQUARE ENIX

MATURE 17+
M
CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

Blood
Drug Reference
Intense Violence
Partial Nudity
Strong Language

PC DVD ROM

PS3 PlayStation 3

LIVE

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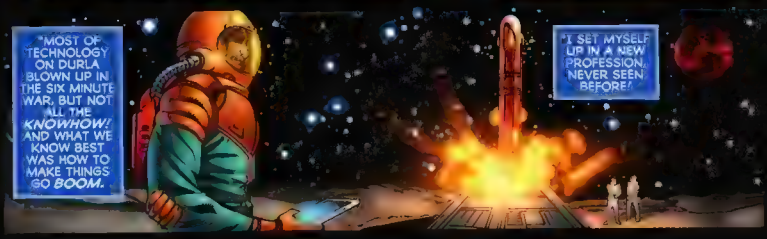
"I SHIFTED INTO THE FORM OF THE FLYING MAN...
"...AND FLEW.
"THE GIFT ITSELF CHANGES--WITH SOME SHAPES WE GET *CHARACTERISTICS* OF WHAT WE'RE IMITATING--OTHERS, JUST THE PACKAGE, LIKE PUTTING GRAY PAINT ON A WOOD FENCE WON'T MAKE IT IRON. AND DIFFERENT FOR EACH CHANGER. MAYBE EVEN DIFFERENT EACH *TIME*. YEARS LATER, PAID TO HAVE THE BEST MINDS IN THE UNITED PLANETS STUDY THIS, AND ANSWER OF WISE MEN WAS *IT DEPENDS*.
"TOO DAMN STUBBORN TO STOP TRYING, I FELL IN THE FORM OF THE MAN IN BLUE AND RED WHO FLEW THROUGH SPACE--FELL, AS A BIRD--
WHUMP
"--AND JUST KEPT CHANGING UNTIL I FOUND A SHAPE IN THE BOOKS THAT FLEW HIGH ENOUGH, FAST ENOUGH--
"--AND WAS *FREE!*"

BEING MYSELF
GETTING MESSED UP IS NOT THE THING
PASSING OUT
SAYING STUPID STUFF, looking like a FOOL. THAT'S NOT ME.
BOOZE
WEED
I WALK THROUGH THE HALLS FEELING GOOD KEEPING MY HEAD UP
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE

abovetheinfluence.com

Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free America

SOMEDAY MAYBE I LIVE LONG ENOUGH, I TELL YOU OF MY JOURNEY AWAY FROM DURLA, LEARNING TO PASS AS HUMAN... ¿PHAUGH...?
HOW SUCH A HAIRY SPECIES ENDS UP RUNNING THE GALAXY MAKES NO SENSE! BUT I GET STUCK IN THIS FORM. THANKS TO VERDAMMT YORRIGAN FEVER...
YOU THINK I MAKE THAT UP TOO? IF I HAD A CHOICE, WOULD I STAY IN A BODY THIS OLD-LOOKING?
I LEARN-- I PLUCK HAIRS FROM EARS LIKE HUMAN, CUT USELESS NAILS LIKE HUMAN--
--THEN I TEACH THEM A TRICK OR TWO.


"MOST OF TECHNOLOGY ON DURLA BLOWN UP IN THE SIX MINUTE WAR. BUT NOT ALL THE KNOWHOW! AND WHAT WE KNOW BEST WAS HOW TO MAKE THINGS GO BOOM.
"I SET MYSELF UP IN A NEW PROFESSION, NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

"I BECOME A STAR-STARTER!
"YOU GOT AN OLD, HALF-DEAD RED STAR... BARELY WORTH CALLING DWARF? CALL R.J.--
FIX
WHAMMM

EITHER WAY IS COOL
I'M NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU ALL THINK
CAUSE THE ONLY PERSON I GOTTA ANSWER TO IS ME
WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC I'LL TRY ANYTHING
LIKE IT OR DON'T DOESN'T MATTER TO ME!
I'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS ON MY MIND
BUT GETTING HIGH IS NOT MY THING
I GOT MIND OPENING
5 FT 10 AND A WHOLE LOTTA ATTITUDE
Crazy Ideas
BIKE OR DON'T

Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug Free America

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"ONE DURLAN-STYLE HYDROGEN FUSION ATTRACTOR--AND B' DAMN, BOOM!
KABOOM
"PLENTY OF SPECIES WILLING TO HAVE UNINHABITABLE STAR SYSTEM WARMED UP A BIT, EASIER TO TERRAFORM FOR COLONIES, MINING, WHATEVER FUN THEY WANT.
"LONG AS THEY PAY FOR THEIR FUN.
"SOON, THE MAN WHO DOES NOT EXIST IS RICH ENOUGH TO BUY AN IDENTITY NO ONE CAN QUESTION...R.J. BRANDE IS FIFTH, SIXTH RICHEST BEING IN GALAXY, MAYBE WHOLE UNITED PLANETS...
"YOU BUY REAL PRETTY BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR ME, PHEEBES...IT SAID BORN ON KERGUELEN ISLAND...HAH! HUMANS SHOULD KNOW WHAT DESOLATION MEANS!
"I SEND CREDITS TO LET A FEW DURLANS COME OFF HELLWORLD, HIRE BIG-DEAL XENOLOGIST TO DESIGN SHAPE THAT WILL SEEM SAFE TO HUMANS BUT STILL ALLOW CHAMELEON POWERS TO WORK EASILY...
...MAKE DURLA PART OF THE UNIVERSE AGAIN, SLOW-LIKE."
IF YOU'RE SITTING ON YOUR ORANGE BUTT LISTENING LIKE YOU SHOULD BE, LAD, I WASN'T FORGETTING YOU NEITHER!
SENT ENOUGH CREDITS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, AND EGG-SISTER I DUMPED YOU ON, ENOUGH TO EDUCATE YOU TOO!

*MORE IMPORTANT THAN EDUCATE YOU, THOUGH, WAS MAKE WORLDS OKAY FOR YOU!
*BIG-SHOT HUMANS ON EARTH ARE RUNNING ON UNITED PLANETS, AND NOT SO FRIENDLY TO OTHER CREATURES...SOMETIMES THINK WHOLE GALAXY WILL END UP WASTELAND FROM WAR LIKE DURLA!
*ONLY PROBLEM: SUPERMAN *DEAD* FOR THOUSAND YEARS.
*SEND FANCY HISTORIANS AND SCHOLARS SEARCHING FOR BIGGEST, BEST SPOKESBEING FOR TOLERANCE...AND WHO DO THEY FIND, THE CHARACTER FROM KIDS' PICTURE BOOK I FOUND ON DURLA!
*NOT THAT I LET THAT STOP ME, BY DAMN!
*I GET EVERY WILD-THINKING SCIENCE TYPE WHO EVER WROTE A SCHOOL PAPER IN CRAYON ABOUT TIME TRAVEL TO COME SNIFF MY MONEY.
*GRANTS FOR EVERYBODY, LIKE CANDY AT A PARTY.
*BIGGEST MONEY BAG GOES TO CIRCADIA SENIUS, PROFESSOR AT METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY--LOOKS LIKE OVERSIZE COCKROACH, BUT TALKS GOOD GAME.
*BAD TASTE IN RESEARCH ASSISTANTS, THOUGH.
I'VE STUDIED YOUR STAR-STARTER MISSILES, BRANDE--THERE'S AN ALGORITHM WE'VE DEVELOPED ON COLU THAT COULD MAKE THEM MUCH SAFER AND MORE STABLE.
IS THAT SO?
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GO INTO BUSINESS AS COMPETITOR, CALL.
I BUY YOU OUT BEFORE YOU BLOW YOURSELF UP.
WH-WHU---???

*SO I'M OFF INSPECTING A NEW RESORT COMPLEX--WHEN PROFESSOR SENDS KLICKS THAT HE HAS MAGIC TRICK WORKED OUT!
*I RUSH BACK ON FIRST TICKET TO EARTH, EVEN TAKE SLOW BOAT WITH A STOPOVER OVER TITAN.
*TOO LATE TO BUY OUT ALL THE SEATS, AND EVEN *MORE* PASSENGERS BOARDING FROM TITAN BY SHUTTLE.. FIRST LESSON, CHILDREN--ALWAYS TAKE YOUR OWN STARSHIPS, NO COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS!
YES, CHILDREN...IT WAS *THAT* FLIGHT.
THE ONE YOU THREE WERE ON.
*YES, OLD MAN TOO BUSY TO EVEN NOTICE YOUNG PEOPLE...EVEN IF WE REALLY WERE SAME SPECIES, WHICH, OF COURSE, ARE NOT.
*BUT YOUNG BOYS NOTICE PRETTY GIRL MAMMALS!
*COSMIC BOY COMING TO EARTH TO LOOK FOR WORK. LIGHTNING LAD LOOKING FOR HELP FINDING IDIOT BROTHER...
...BUT NOT TOO BUSY TO STARE AT A GIRL FROM SATURN'S MOON!

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SO MANY WHISPERS, SO MANY DREAMS...AND FOOT ME, BURIED IN ADMINISTRIVIA PILED ON BY STAFF. CAN'T EVEN HAVE GOOD FANTASY ABOUT FINALLY BREAKING TIME BARRIER AND FETCHING SUPERMAN
"BIG TICKET GETS HEAD OF THE LINE TO LEAVE, EVEN ON OVERSIZE CATTLE TRANSPORT. SO UP AND OUT PORTAL, STILL LOST IN NONSENSE--
"--UNTIL SHE SCREAMED!"
LOOK OUT--
--THOSE MEN WANT TO KILL R.J. BRANDE! I SAW IT IN THEIR MINDS!
VATINHELL??

SPROINGG
KRAKOOM
*BOYS MOVED FASTER THAN SPACEMINER JUMPING A CLAIM. KEEPING STARLINER FROM NEEDING TO CLEAN UP MY MELTED OLD DURLAN HIDE.
IF THANK YOU IS NOT SAID OFTEN ENOUGH, ONE LAST TIME, CHILDREN.
EVEN THE DEAD CAN STILL BE GRATEFUL.
*A FEW BAGS OF CREDITS WILL BUY STORY THAT KILLERS HIRED TO MAKE MY MONEY GO TO COUSIN AS INHERITANCE--NOT CRAZY DURLANS WHO WANT TO STAY ON HELLHOLE, NOT LET ME FIX.
*AND MY NEW FRIENDS...MY CHILDREN...
*...MY LEGIONNAIRES!

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SO, A FEW CREDITS FOR BUILDING, A FEW FOR NICE STARSHIPS...YOU FIND NICE FRIENDS AND SET GOOD EXAMPLE FOR SILLY PEOPLE...
...SHOW THAT ALL SORTS CREATURES CAN WORK TOGETHER, MAKE UNIVERSE A BETTER PLACE!
I CAME TO EARTH TO TRAIN FOR THE SCIENCE POLICE--WE DON'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE WE NEED FOR THIS.
WE'RE VERY YOUNG FOR THAT BIG A JOB, MISTER BRANDE!
AH, WE CAN FAKE IT.
EXACTLY, LAD--MY MOTTO EXACTLY!
CREDITS PAY FOR GOOD TEACHERS. FIX WHAT YOU BREAK ALONG WAY.
GO FIND MORE BRAVE AND FOOLISH YOUNG PERSONS--BUILD MY LEGION, AND SEND ME BILL!
GO!
OY. DID I NOT KNOW HOW MANY STARSHIPS YOU COULD CRASH!
AND THE GREEN ONE--HE COULD BE DURLAN. HE BLOW STUFF UP SO GOOD! BUT WHAT FUN!

I EVEN FIND WAY TO SNEAK MY BOY OFF DURLA, AND MAKE HIM LEGIONNAIRE WITHOUT TELLING HIM I LAID HIS EGG.
GET TO WATCH YOU GROW, REEP.
SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO TELL YOU I WAS PROUD FATHER...ANY KIND FATHER.
PHEEBES MAKE SURE NOW YOU HAVE ENOUGH CREDITS FOR ANY NONSENSE YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUNG LIFE, BOY--OLD LIFE TOO, LONG AFTER I GO.
YOU HEAR?
REST OF YOU, TOO--BUY MORE STARSHIPS TO BLOW UP, WHATEVER!
AND YOU, GREEN ONE--IF YOU STAY LISTEN TO THIS OLD MAN, YOU GET PRIZE!
OF ALL LEGIONNAIRES, YOU DO ME BIGGEST FAVOR--OH, PRETTY LADY FROM SATURN KEEP IDIOTS FROM SHOOTING AT ME--BUT YOU--YOU--
--YOU MAKE DREAM COME TRUE!

WITH YOUR GRANT, QUERL DOX AND I HAVE FINALLY DEVELOPED A WORKABLE MODEL TIME BUBBLE--
--A K-K-KONNECTION TO THE PAST!
THE PROGRAMMING IS INCREDIBLY *COMPLEX* AND WOULD TAKE LESSER INTELLIGENCES *YEARS*--BUT I BELIEVE I'VE *SOLVED* IT!
GIVE ME A FEW MONTHS, AND I CAN SEND YOUR LEGIONNAIRES TO *ANY DATE* IN THE PAST.
GOOD.
I HAVE THEM FETCH *SUPERMAN.*
SUPERMAN? HE'S A *MYTH!*
SAY YOU.
"I SAY NO MYTH. AND I PAY TO *PROVE* IT."

"12TH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE NOT SAME AS COMMON SENSE, BOY--ALWAYS REMEMBER I TELL YOU THAT!"
SUPERBOY!
HOKAY, HE A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE SUPERMAN, BUT HE GROW UP.
BETTER AGE TO PLAY NICE SUPER HERO GAMES WITH YOU, RIGHT?
SO THAT'S IT! I THOUGHT HE FELT I WAS A FAKE OR SOMETHING.
SO YOU STILL LISTENING, GREEN, YOU GET BIG PRIZE--NICE ENDOWMENT FOR NEW TIME LABORATORY, YOU BREAK MORE LAWS OF PHYSICS--
--CONFUSE SCIENTISTS, HISTORIANS, WHATEVER FUN YOU WANT!
BUT IF YOU NOT THERE LISTENING, NOTHING FOR YOU.
YOU HEAR, PHEEBES? NOTHING! GIVE ALL TO HOME FOR DRUNKEN SPACEMEN!
CONGRATULATIONS, MONSIEUR DOX.
I-I-- DIDN'T THINK HE LIKED--
AW, BRAINY-- WE ALL LIKE YOU!

THE MAN OF STEEL!

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI takes on

Illustrated by
EDDY BARROWS

Covers by
JOHN CASSADAY

The epic story "Grounded" begins in #701

SUPERMAN

JULY 2010

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AHEM, WELL--THAT'S A VERY INTELLIGENT USE OF HIS FUNDS.
BRAINY, JUST BLUSH AND SAY THANK YOU...
...EVEN IF HE SUPPOSEDLY CAN'T HEAR YOU, I DON'T PUT IT PAST MY FATHER TO BE WATCHING... SOMEHOW.
AND IF ANYONE CAN COME BACK, HE'LL BE THE ONE...PROBABLY BRIBING CERBERUS TO GET OUT OF HELL!
HOKAY, ENOUGH. YOU KNOW REST--HOW I QUIETLY KEEP OLD KLICK-KLICK USING TIME TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR PAST, SEE HOW OLD BRAINIAC TRY TO DESTROY OUR FUTURE, BOTTLE DURLA, DESTROY EVERYTHING--AND I SEND YOU BACK TO FIX.
NOW LEGION HAVE EXTRA MONEY TO DO LEGION WORK, A SON ENOUGH FOR WHATEVER HE WANT, BRAINY NEW TOYS...
...AND ME, I SAY THANKS FOR PROVING OLD MAN'S IDEA...
...CHANGING UNIVERSE JUST LITTLE BIT...BEFORE I GO.

AND GIVING ME MY DREAM OF SUPERMAN, COME TRUE IN YOUNG BOY WHO TAKES GOOD CARE OF UNIVERSE FOR OLD MAN!
LONG LIVE THE LEGION!
next: saturn girl & the eternal triangle

The Atom

Nucleus

Part 1 Splitting The Atom

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THE RAY PALMER ATOM CREATED BY GARDNER FOX

MOMENTS AFTER DISCOVERING MY LABORATORY HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND MY TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN STOLEN, I FOUND OUT MY FATHER HAD JUST SUFFERED A STROKE.

MY MIND IMMEDIATELY JUMPED TO WORK TRYING TO ANALYZE WHAT IT TELLS ME THERE WAS A DISTURBANCE IN THE FLOW OF OXYGEN TO HIS BRAIN CAUSED BY A BURST BLOOD VESSEL.

HE TELLS ME THAT THERE CAN BE A RECOVERY OF BRAIN FUNCTION AFTER HIM IN THIS HOSPITAL BED.

THAT'S WHAT MY MIND TELLS ME.

MY GUT T... MY FATHER, A MAN WE BARELY SPOKE TO OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND NO MATTER HOW HARD TO ... AND CONTROL ... I CAN'T SHAKE ...

MY MIND TELLS ME NOT TO OVERREACT. THAT HE MAY STILL RECOVER, THAT I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN US YET.
MY GUT TELLS ME THAT EVEN IF HE DOES WAKE UP, HE MAY VERY WELL BE UNABLE TO MOVE ONE SIDE OF HIS BODY, FORMULATE SPEECH, OR SEE AGAIN. AND EVEN THEN, I DON'T THINK I COULD TELL HIM WHAT I NEED TO.
MY MIND TRIES TO COUNTER. TO BE LOGICAL, BUT MY GUT TELLS IT TO SHUT THE HELL UP.
NO MORE THINKING. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING HERE. I'M GOING STIR-CRAZY IN THIS ROOM. SOMEONE IS AFTER ME. SOMEONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

...SEEMS SOMEONE'S BEEN SPREADING AROUND A LOT OF MONEY AFTER THE MAN WHO WIRED THOSE TAPES IN THE LIBRARY.
...THE CALCULATOR. HE USED TO BE JUST ANOTHER COSTUMED NUT, THEN HE GOT HURT BADLY. THE COSTUME DIED. STARTED HIRING HIMSELF OUT AS CALCULATOR FOR SUPER-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. HE'LL PLAN YOUR HEIST, CASE THE JOINT, AND EVEN PROVIDE WEAPONRY... FOR A PRICE.
THERE'S A RUMOR HE CHARGES ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS A QUESTION. WELL, I'VE GOT A FEW RE... BUT HE'S GOING TO BE THE ONE TO PAY.
I CAN DO THIS, BARBARA... TRUST ME.
THIS GUY'S LIKE A GHOST, RAY. BATGIRL AND I JUST HAD A RUN-IN WITH HIM. WE THOUGHT WE'D FINALLY CAUGHT HIM, BUT HE DISAPPEARED ON HIS WAY TO ARKHAM ASYLUM. NO ONE--AND I DO MEAN NO ONE--CAN FIND THIS GUY.
I MEAN BATMAN CAN'T EVEN TRACK HIM. AND BELIEVE ME, HE'S TRIED.
"AS SEEN IN BATGIRL #0-12." --B.C.
I REALIZE THAT, BUT THE LAST TIME I CHECKED, BATMAN COULDN'T SURF DATA LINES.
GOOD POINT. OKAY, MY MOLE JUST MADE CONTACT AND IS TRYING TO HIRE HIM FOR A BANK JOB IN GOTHAM. YOU WON'T HAVE LONG BEFORE THE CALCULATOR REALIZES IT'S A SETUP AND CUTS THE CONNECTION.
I DON'T NEED A LOT OF TIME. WISH ME LUCKKK.

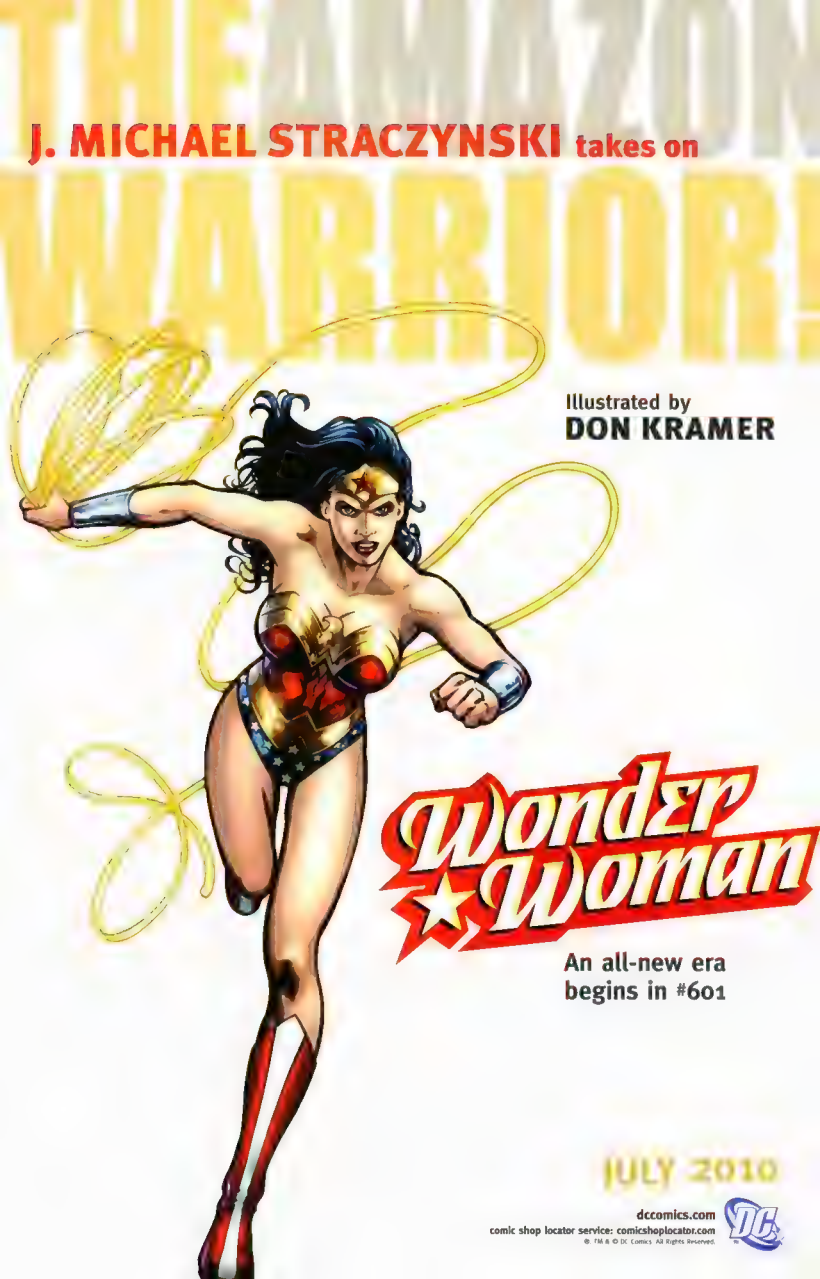
TIME. EVERYONE THINKS THE FLASH IS THE FASTEST MEMBER OF THE JLA... AND THAT'S TRUE. THE FLASH IS ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE ON THE SCENE.
BUT I'M ALWAYS THE SECOND ONE THERE.
SURFING THE WEB, CELL PHONES... IT'S ALL TAKING AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF CONCENTRATION. THINGS APPEAR SO CRACKLY ONCE YOU ENTER THE DATA FLOW THAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL OF YOUR BODY...YOUR MIND, EVEN.
OF COURSE I'M USED TO IT. I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS. YOU JUST NEED TO FIND AN INNER CALM...HOLD ON TO THAT AND TUNE OUT YOURSELF SO...SURF THE CURRENT OF INFORMATION.
BUT EVEN AN OLD PRO LIKE ME NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL. INFORMATION IS GETTING FASTER AND FASTER ALL THE TIME...AND I NEED TO KEEP UP, OR I MAY LOSE MYSELF IN WORK...GET LOST IN THE FLOW...JUST BECOME PART OF THE NOISE.
I CHANNEL ALL MY ENERGY AND
CHANCE TO TELL HIM.
THE REST IS BABY.

...WELL, I MAY TALK TOO FAST, BUT YOU WON'T BE A BREEZE...
I ALMOST LOSE THE SIGNAL
AND BEFORE I
MONTREAL.
THEN, BETWEEN
THEN THINGS REALLY GET
TOKYO.

WHA---!
SURPRISED?
IMPOSSIBLE!

TWO DAYS AGO, YOU HIRED A BUNCH OF GOONS TO TAKE HOSTAGES IN IVY TOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY...YOU DID IT TO MAKE SURE I WAS OCCUPIED SO SOMEONE COULD TRASH MY LAB.
WHO WAS IT? WHO HIRED YOU?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ANYTHING? COME ON...DR. PALMER.
HOW'S YOUR DAD, BY THE WAY?
...WHAT?
YOUR FATHER...JACK DOUGLAS PALMER. HOW IS HE DOING? JUST HOLDING ON, I'D IMAGINE.
HOW DID--WHAT? YOU MEAN ABOUT... DAD--?

WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH--?
HMM, WHAT'S THAT, DR. PALMER? HAVING TROUBLE FORMING SENTENCES, ARE WE? HANDS GOING NUMB?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR THE INEVITABLE DAY WHEN ONE OF YOU SUPER-DUPERS ACTUALLY FOUND ME, DID YOU?
THOUGH I ADMIT, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU. I HAD MY MONEY ON THE BAT...OR MAYBE THE SPEEDSTER... NOT THE LITTLE GUY.
WWWHA... YOU...DO?
THE SECOND ANOTHER PERSON'S HEARTBEAT WAS DETECTED IN THIS ROOM, THE VENTS STARTING PUMPING A PARTICULARLY NASTY PATHOGEN INTO THE AIR.
I, OF COURSE, HAVE MADE MYSELF IMMUNE TO THIS PARTICULAR SECURITY SYSTEM...BUT YOU...WELL, OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE NOT.
THE DISEASE IT CARRIES BECOMES FATAL WITHIN 45 SECONDS OF EXPOSURE. BY MY COUNT THAT GIVES YOU ABOUT TEN SECONDS TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER COME BACK...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Illustrated by
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Wonder Woman
An all-new era
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...OR YOU CAN STAY HERE AND DIE.
TO BE CONTINUED!

SAN DIEGO COMIC CON INTERNATIONAL

HELLO DC NATION!

DC's Convention Manager, **Fletcher Cho-Foog**, here. It's a muggy New York City day in early July, so you can guess what I'm eagerly anticipating – the 2010 San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC) which runs from July 21-25!

You would think that for a show that substantial and immense to work on I would be dreading its arrival. But no, I am truly excited! While it's a lot of work and preparation, SDCC is a show where I can take a ten-minute breather during setup just to look around me and be amazed by the other setups and booths as far as the eye can see (but none as awesome as the DC booth, IMHO!).

There's nothing like seeing everything come together, like pieces of a puzzle falling into place. But you, the fans, are the biggest piece in that puzzle. We have everything at the DC booth: Freebies! Signings! Products on display! Game demos! It's a great team effort and the culmination of weeks of long hours and late nights, working in conjunction with nearly every department at DC Comics and with our freelancers attending SDCC toward one sole purpose: to create the best possible experience for you. All the graphics we produce, the panels we set up, the signings we have and the freebies we give away are made to have you at the DC booth with a smile on your face and great memories to cherish.

While at SDCC, be sure to check out these key DCU panels:

Thursday, July 22

10:15-11:15	The Year of the Writer: DC Writers Unite!	Room 6DE
10:30-11:30	DC Talent Search Orientation 1	Room 4
11:30-12:30	DC NATION Convention Kickoff!	Room 6DE
12:30-1:30	Batman: The Widening Gyre	Room 4
2:00-3:00	DC Focus: Geoff Johns	Room 6DE
3:00-4:00	Spotlight on Jenette Kahn	Room 5AB
4:30-5:30	DC 75th Anniversary	Room 6DE
5:30-6:30	Spotlight on Ivan Reis	Room 7AB

Friday, July 23

10:00-11:00	DC Talent Search Orientation 2	Room 4
11:30-12:30	Spotlight on Paul Levitz	Room 5AB
12:30-1:30	DC Focus: Grant Morrison	Room 6DE
1:45-2:45	Batman: The Return	Room 6DE
3:00-4:00	Superman: The Man of Tomorrow	Room 6DE
4:15-5:15	DC NATION Special Edition	Room 6DE
6:30-7:30	Artist Choice: Drawing Batman	Room 30CDE
7:30-8:30	Dick Giordano Tribute	Room 4

Saturday, July 24

10:30-11:30	DC Talent Search Orientation 3	Room 4
12:30-1:45	DC Universe: Event Horizon	Room 6A
2:00-3:00	Green Lantern: Emerald Empire	Room 6A
3:30-4:30	SONY: DC Universe MMO	Room 5AB
4:30-5:30	Spotlight on J.M. Straczynski	Room 6A

Sunday, July 25

11:00-12:00	DC Kids: Aww Yeah!	Room 4
12:00-1:00	Spotlight on Dennis O'Neil	Room 25ABC
2:00-3:00	DC Focus: Premier Teams	Room 6A
3:00-4:00	DC Town Meeting	Room 25ABC

Definitely come by the DC booth (#1915) for all the best giveaways (first and last two hours of the day) and all your favorite writer and artist signing! I hope you'll enjoy what we have planned cuz I had a blast watching it all come together.

Enjoy the show and thanks for the support!

—Fletch

DC NATION

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